



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board

From: Director of Communication and Information Services

Date: May 18, 2023

Subject: UBCM Community to Community Program grant

Voting Entitlement: All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)

Purpose: To consider support for an application to UBCM for a Community to Community Program grant.

Executive Summary:

The RDCO is seeking a \$10,000 grant through the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community to Community (C2C) Program to jointly host a forum with Westbank First Nation (WFN) on Reconciliation, the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA). In particular, the event will focus on DRIPA and how the Act will influence the government to government relationship between the RDCO and WFN.

The forum is scheduled as a half-day workshop on September 14, 2023 and will be facilitated by an external consultant.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board approve the Regional District of Central Okanagan UBCM Community to Community Program grant application submission seeking \$10,000 to undertake a Community to Community forum with Westbank First Nation.

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodie Foster".

Jodie Foster, Director of Communication and Information Services

Attachment(s): UBCM Community to Community grant application and budget

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Sustainable Communities

Values: Good Governance

Background:

Since 1999, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Indigenous Services Canada have provided funding for the Community to Community (C2C) program. In this time, more than 700 C2C Forums have been held in communities across the province.

Starting in 2023, the C2C program, administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) will continue to support C2C forums, now with funding up to \$10,000 for events. In addition, the program is expanding to support the advancement of First Nation/local government reconciliation and relationship building through the development of agreements (such as protocols, MOUs, and service agreements), joint plans and/or strategies and the joint review of bylaws and/or policies to develop recommendations for amendments or new bylaws and/or policies.

The RDCO held its last C2C forum in 2016 where the two governments reviewed the potential to undertake a Memorandum of Understanding for the protection and conservation for cultural heritage sites within Regional Parks.

The RDCO and WFN are continuing to develop a government to government relationship and wish to build on past successes.

2023 Community to Community Forum

As the RDCO moves forward on the path toward reconciliation and inclusive governance, Westbank First Nation extended an invitation to the RDCO Board to attend a forum on Reconciliation, the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA).

The RDCO and WFN will jointly host the event, which will focus on DRIPA and how the Act will influence the government to government relationship between the two organizations. The RDCO will fund the event.

The event is tentatively scheduled on WFN lands for September 14, 2023 and will include a half-day workshop facilitated by an external consultant specializing in UNDRIP/DRIPA, self-government and local government. Attendees will include elected officials and senior staff from both organizations.

This event will allow space for the two governments to come together in a joint learning opportunity to better understand each other's governance structures. This will be foundational information as the governments explore more inclusive governance at the Regional Board (i.e., WFN voting participation on the Regional Board). The shared information will also shape the RDCO's Reconciliation Framework with the discussion providing context and highlighting priority areas for both organizations.

The total budget for the event is \$11,350. The UBCM grant application will be submitted for \$10,000.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

This forum will contribute to a better government to government relationship between the RDCO and WFN.

Financial:

If the grant is not received, the forum will move forward with funds coming from existing departmental funding.

Considerations not applicable:

- Legal / Statutory Authority
- Alternate Recommendation

Approved for Agenda



Brian Reardon, CAO